C:\Documents and Settings\jkavanagh\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\A36EM1VC\MCj00831850000[1].wmfName: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Elliptical Orbits Honors- Prelab**

Comets, planets, asteroids, and other orbiting objects all have elliptical orbits.   
Do some research on ellipses and eccentricity. List your findings below. Later in the week you will use your research to do an inquiry lab.

A couple of good places to start your research:

* [www.windows2universe.org](http://www.windows2universe.org)
* [www.mathwarehouse.com](http://www.mathwarehouse.com)

Be sure to include:

* the definition of an ellipse
* a diagram of an ellipse with any important features labeled
* how ellipses are connected to things in space
* the formula for calculating eccentricity (make sure you know what each term means in your formula—you will need to use your formula to do your lab)
* the eccentricities of a few things in space
* what foci are and how foci are connected to eccentricity
* how to draw an ellipse using the foci